Ans'd Jan 4. 1847.

Settra Kroo Oct. 31 st. 1845

Dear Sirs

Some time ago I received a letter from you requesting intelligence of our mission here; but was not in a situation to answer it. We are at this time intolerably good African health. During the Spring and Summer we were out of supplies and had to let the mission school dwindle away to nothing or nearly so in the mean time I suffered with a 3rd turn of the fever and before I got well we received goods from America I was weary with labor and vexed by the head men demanding a dash (a present) so as to bring on fevers a fourth time all in one year. besides having the chills a great number of times. On the 15th of this moth Mrs Connelly arrived and on the 21 st we had an addition to the mission family of a large promising daughter. Miss Mary Lepion a coloured girl came with Mrs C. to live in the Mission she has sustained one attack of the fever.

The people are satisfied now that the mission came here entirely for their benefit; this is one great point gained and relieves the mission of broils trouble &c. There has been a great number (perhaps two hundred) natives taught here to read the Scriptures

but their influence of these is crushed in a great degree by the overwhelming majority who are yet in gross heathenish darkness. To instigate murder and idolatry is a profession among this people. They are woful believers in witch craft; they have also what is called gree gree men among them these are supposed to possess supper natural knowledge &c. and be a kind of magecians. When one dies they think that he is bewitched and his friends take a fee and give it to the gree gree man to point out the witch he takes the fee and paints out one or more as the witches & wizards who caused the deceased to die their military officer and soldiers take the supposed witches next morning the friends of the deceased gave them about a quart of water with the bark of the saucy wood tree steeped in it this is as poison as hemlock and supposed to be a perfect test of the moral character as to guilt or innocence. if they vomit this poison that fact is taken as proof that they were innocent. if it kills them that is taken as proof that they were guilty Sometimes when they determine to kill one they repeat the dose frequently and if the accused still vomits it they take a club of the saucy wood tree and beat his brains out. or torture him to death in some other way. Sometimes it would seem like a fiend from the infernal world could not be more horrible in sin than these.

murderers especially when they murder a pregnant woman and such women are mostly chosen out as victims. The gree gree man make grees grees (amulets) out of horns or little bags full of trash and sell to them. They wear them around their necks and have an amulet for every thing like the ancient heathen who had a God for every thing. When one steals from any person except his own tribe and another tells on him the informer has to pay for all that the thief stole; such is their regard for honesty. They believe in transmigration. They are the most shameless and ardent beggars that I ever heard of or saw. Very few in our town now wear gree gree or give savey wood on account of the mission; but these sins are awfully practiced a few miles off. Wealth consists mostly in the number of women that a man can purchase and these women answer the double purpose of slaves and concubines. With equal carelessness all the commandments are broken thus you see the deplorable state of morals here. I have noticed that your Seminary numbers 131 students when I saw this I pondered to myself if there would not at least one of this number come to this most needy field of labor; but perhaps death deters you from Africa: here let me suggest to you that I do not think it is the climate that hurries the missionaries into eternity so much as the overload

of labors to body and mind that fall upon the few who sacrifice their country and comforts and face death in this land of degradation and danger. The fever here effects the mind as much as the body the memory is injured and much study writing &c makes the mind feel like it would go into desperation so that we are often ready to say like the Shunamites son my head my head. If conscience bids ministers to come here as missionaries I think they should come regardless of death because Christ must be most honored by ministers who do not fear to die; besides what better an account can a human being give of his stewardship in the day of judgment than that he laid down his life for the gospel of Christ. In America I was called a suicide for coming here; but my conscience bid me come and when I could not feel like I was discharging my duty to God without coming I wept bitterly and thought out of eight hundred millions of human beings inhabiting the globe; am I the very man on whom this dismal lot has fallen; but now I am probably as well satisfied here as I would be any where else; I also expect to to live as long here as life is dear to me. When you answer this letter I am willing to write again and mention any particulars that you may desire yours resp't D. M. Conneby.